

What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating an animal selected from the group consisting of pigs, poultry and ruminants, to increase the animal's performance, which comprises administering to the animal, with its feed, a performance-increasing  
5 amount of an organism selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus buchneri*, *Lactobacillus kefir*, *Lactobacillus parakefir* and *Lactobacillus parabuchneri*.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said organism is *Lactobacillus buchneri*.
- 10 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the animal is cattle.
4. Animal feed comprising also an organism selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus buchneri*, *Lactobacillus kefir*, *Lactobacillus parakefir* and *Lactobacillus parabuchneri*.
- 15 5. The animal feed according to claim 4, wherein said organism is *Lactobacillus buchneri*.